

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-04 IO-10 ARAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /065 W

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O R 221935Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6288

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, BOL, PE, PFOR, PBOR

SUBJ: CHILE-BOLIVIA RELATIONS: OUTLET TO SEA

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 8594 (B) SANTIAGO 8550

1. APPARENTLY ON BASIS OF EXTENSIVE BRIEFING, CHILEAN PRESS HAS GIVEN MAJOR COVERAGE SINCE NEWS BROKE DECEMBER 19 TO GOC PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTION OF BOLIVIA'S LONG-STANDING DREAM OF RENEWED ACCESS TO SEA. BASIS FOR EXCHANGE SETTLEMENT IS APPARENTLY EXCHANGE OF TERRITORIES OF ROUGHLY EQUAL AREA. COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

2. GOC PROPOSAL APPARENTLY CONTAINS FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A) CHILE WOULD CEDE TO BOLIVIA STRIP OF TERRITORY ALONG NORTHERN BORDER WITH PERU, GIVING BOLIVIA FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER CORRIDOR TO SEA AND OUT TO 200-MILE LIMIT CLAIMED BY CHILE IN PACIFIC. CORRIDOR WOULD INCLUDE PRESENT RAILROAD TO LA PAZ FROM ARICA, OIL PIPELINE, AND PRESENT ARICA AIRPORT. MAPS CARRIED BY PRESS INDICATE CORRIDOR WOULD SQUEEZE IN BETWEEN ARICA AND PERUVIAN

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BORDER, BUT WIDEN CONSIDERABLY TOWARD BOLIVIAN BORDER.

THE TERRITORY IS ALMOST UNINHABITED, CONSISTING LARGELY OF BARREN DESERT AND MOUNTAINS.

B) BOLIVIA WOULD CEDE TERRITORY OF ROUGHLY EQUAL EXTENT TO CHILE, WHICH MAPS IDENTIFY AS THE BULGE OF BOLIVIA EAST OF CHILEAN PORT OF TOCOPILLA AND CITY OF CALAMA. (REF A, HOWEVER, PUTS IN DOUBT TOTAL AMOUNT OF TERRITORY CHILE ASKED.) THIS BULGE INCLUDES SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES, BUT IS MOSTLY DESERT AND MOUNTAINS, WITH FEW INHABITANTS.

C) BOLIVIA WOULD COMPENSATE CHILE FOR FACILITIES WITHIN CORRIDOR, SUCH AS AIRPORT AND RAILROAD ALLOWING CHILE USE OF PRESENT AIRPORT UNTIL NEW ONE IS BUILT SOUTH OF ARICA, AT BOLIVIAN EXPENSE.

D) CHILE WOULD OBTAIN FULL USE OF WATERS OF RIO LAUCA.

E) BOLIVIA WOULD MAINTAIN CORRIDOR AS DEMILITARIZED AREA.

F) BOLIVIA WOULD OBTAIN FROM OAS AND UN A "QUARANTEE OF THE INVIOABILITY" OF THE CORRIDOR.

G) BOTH NATIONS WOULD UNDERTAKE SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR PROJECTS OF MUTUAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT.

H) ENTIRE PROPOSAL IS SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT OF PERU, WHICH IS REQUIRED UNDER TERMS OF 1929 TREATY WITH CHILE, TO CESSION BY CHILE TO THIRD PARTY OF LANDS WHICH BELONGED TO PERU UNTIL WAR OF PACIFIC OF 1879-1883.

3. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL INTEREST AMONG CHILEANS TO NEWS OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT. MOST NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED IT AS STRAIGHT NEWS, WITH LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT OR COMMENT FROM INTERESTED PERSONS OF TYPE CUSTOMARY WHEN MAJOR STORY BREAKS.
POPPER

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